

A Message from the President

The National Maritime Research Institute (NMRI) was established in April 2001 to “secure safety and realize more advanced marine transportation, and contribute to the development of the oceans and preservation of the ocean environment, by study, research, and development, etc. of ship-related technologies and technologies for utilizing the oceans and preventing pollution of the marine environment using those technologies.”

This year, as the fourth year of NMRI's 2nd Mid-Term Plan, we will devote our full efforts to ensuring that the results of our mid-term objectives take firm root, creating and disseminating results of higher quality, strengthening our research and development capabilities, and reforming the operation of our businesses. This is also a year when we will be hastening with preparations for the establishment of a new National Institute of Transportation Technology by the consolidation of four transportation-related corporations, including NMRI, which will take place in approximately 2 years. To accomplish these objectives, this year, we are resolved to implement the following three points as top priorities.



Shiro Inoue
President

○ Creation and dissemination of results of high quality capable of satisfying our clients

NMRI's management vision is to squarely confront the technical challenges for which the government, industry, and society require solutions, and to provide advanced technical solutions to those challenges quickly and in a user-friendly form. We are committed to fulfilling this vision.

To achieve this, we will devote our full energies to maximizing the creation and dissemination of practical results of high quality with the highest possible speed by endeavoring to grasp and analyze needs and changes in social conditions quickly and accurately, and “Prioritization” and “Concentration” of our limited management resources in responding to those needs. With the current global economic downturn casting a large shadow over the maritime industry, our particular attention is paid to ensuring flexibility in the conduct of our research, being constantly aware of the need for in order to respond to changing conditions.

○ Establishment and strategic operation of unique original core technologies

From the mid-to long-term viewpoint, NMRI's aim is to possess “core technologies” which cannot be followed by any other institute, and to provide advanced technical capabilities as a “Safety and environmental specialist” and “Maritime innovation center,” with the ultimate aim of being a “central research group in the maritime field in Japan, which merits the trust of both the government and the private entities.”

For this goal, we are pursuing more advanced core technologies in our daily research, and are also working to enhance the potential of our research capabilities by strengthening our recruiting and improving our training system. In responding to the tasks we are assigned, we also put great effort into strategic operation so that Japan can demonstrate its full technical capabilities in the maritime field, centering on NMRI, for example, by generating synergies through strengthened collaboration with universities and other external research organizations.

○ Business operations with speed, efficiency, and transparency

Considering the continuing financial difficulties facing Japan, it is crucial that NMRI, endowed with a part of the government's precious resources, execute its business operations quickly and efficiently, and with transparency to be understood by the Japanese people.

To this end, we are seeking improvements and restructuring for more efficient business operation and further improved efficiency by ensuring “visibility of all businesses,” which includes an exhaustive investigation into detailed contents of all of our business practices for verification purposes. In this, we are endeavoring to maximize effects by free thinking from the viewpoint of the Japanese people, unfettered by the past practices.

Last year, NMRI was graded “excellent” by the Independent Administrative Institution Evaluation Committee (IAI Evaluation Committee) of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), which awarded this institute a record-high 136 points. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to such rating for their understanding and support. NMRI, both the managements and all the other employees, will continue to devote all their energies to fully achieving the three goals laid out above and to making preparations for the establishment of the new research institute, without slowing down our collective efforts.

In closing, I would appreciate the continued guidance and encouragement by all of you.

Shiro Inoue
President
National Maritime Research Institute